Council Proceedings.

Council Chamber, January 9th, 1883.

The City Council met last night in the Council Chamber, Mayor Meredith presiding. Ald. Pritchard, Hunt, Birrell, Hyman, Murry, Jones, Taylor, Skinner, Ferguson, Higgins, Crawford, Buckle, Beattie, Peel, Sharman, O'Meara, Macbeth, Boyd, Becher, Browne, Minhinnick.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

COMMUNICATIONS.

From Squire John Peters, claiming five months' salary for performing the duties of Police Magistrate. No. 1.

From D. G. Mackenzie, County Clerk of Middlesex, in reference to the terms on which indigent persons from London will be admitted to the House of Refuge at Strathroy. No. 3.

From Wm. Trafford, appealing against dog tax. No. 1.

From Alex. McIntosh, applying for the position of Weigh Scales Clerk. R. Galpin, J. H. Boke and S. Turner, to the same effect. No. 1.

From Mrs. Browne (widow), asking remission taxes. No. 1.

From Ald. Buckle, resigning his position as Alderman, owing to his being an applicant for the position of Assessor. Accepted.

From C. J. Myers, asking that his income tax be reduced from $600 to $500. No. 1.

ACCOUNTS

were referred to the appropriate Committees, as follows:—W. Williams, posting bills, $2; Edward Glackmeyer, returning officer, $15; John Bonser, do., $11; Stephen Grant, do., $8; Jas. Thornton, do., $8; James Jury, do., $10; John Fleming, do., $8; J. B. Smyth, do., $8; J M. Keary, do., $9.50; G. E. Evans, do., $8; Robert Scott, do., $8.50; Alex. Purdom, do., $15; Alex. Gunn, do., and rent of house for polling place, $24; Oswald Baines, do., $15; W. Spence, lantern, 75c; W. Williams, posting bills, $2; T. F. Kingsmill, Brussels carpet for new Police Station, $68.38; M. D. Dawson, $42.

A GIFT.

A beautifully bound volume, containing the annual statement of the city of Detroit, was presented, and on motion of Ald. Jones, seconded by Ald. Peel, the thanks of the Council were returned for the same

NUMBER THREE.

Ald. Hunt (Chairman) reported from this committee as follows:—(1) Your committee beg to recommend that accounts in connection with Fire Department, amounting to $2,939.57; (2) your committee beg to lay before you the annual statement of receipts and expenditures in connection with the Chief of the Fire Department; (3) that relief accounts, amounting to $664.48, be paid; (4) your committee beg to lay before you the report of Inspector Lee for the month of December, and also for the year; (5) that the account of Simpson Thompson, for window in Hide Inspector's office, amounting to $1.50, be paid; (6) your Committee beg to lay before you the Market Clerk's report for the month of December; in reference to the petition of Thomas Brock and others for a reduction of their rent, your committee would suggest that no action be taken on the same, but would recommend the new Council to advertise the fish stalls to be put up at auction at an early date; (7) that hospital accounts amounting to $964.73 be paid; (8) your Committee wish to call the attention of the Council to the many valuable suggestions contained in Dr. Wilkinson's report, and this Committee would suggest the recommendation of the same to the new Council for adoption.

The report was adopted without discussion.

NUMBER TWO.

Ald. Boyd, Chairman, reported from this committee as follows:—(1) That the following accounts be paid:—Commissioner's pay roll, $14; Messrs. Stevens, Turner & Burns, sewer traps, $12; Brown & Morris, hardware for park, $34; Parish & Payne, stove pipes, etc., for Police Station, $7; McBride & Boyd, stoves, etc., for Police Station, $128.82; T. H. Marsh, tape line, etc., $1.15; City Gas Company, log pipe, $9.12; total, $206.10; (2) that the account due the contractor for asphalt sidewalks be paid, and the two remaining blocks not yet measured be estimated by the Engineer and paid for. Adopted.

NUMBER ONE.

Ald. Hyman (Chairman) reported from No. 1 Committee as follows:—(1) Your Committee, having examined the following accounts and finding them correct, recommend the same for payment:—Re-audit, $785; salaries, $2,646.58; Hospital, $250; County of Middlesex, jurors' expenses, $612.80; printing and advertising, $208.04; election expenses (poll clerks), $56; law expenses, solicitors, etc., $974.11; coroner's inquest, $5; Fire Department, $882.88; Hospital, $964.73; gas account, $1,935.69; relief, $664.48; market expenditure, $1.50; street watering, $117—total, $10,103.81; (2) that the petitions of Wm. Westlake, Jas. Haslett and J. B. Simpson, for remission of taxes, be granted; (3) that the petition of J. W. Cryer, for allowance on taxes, be granted by allowing a rebate of $20. (4) that the petition of Messrs. Strathdee & Son be filed; (5) your Committee beg to report progress in the petitions of A. M. Shrieves, Ellen Fletcher, Ellen Finnegan, Sarah Tweedie, Job Cooke and Jane Insell; (6) your Committee beg to call the attention of the Council to clause No. 11 of their 24th report, which was deferred at the time of presentation, Dec. 18th last; (7) your Committee beg to submit December report of R. Wigmore, Police Court Clerk; (8) your Committee beg to refer the following applications for the position of assessors to the Council:—W. Y. Brunton, E. Glackmeyer and E. Towe; (9) your Committee, in presenting their last report for the year 1882, beg, as required by the by-law, to refer to some of the matters which have been before them during the year, and to show the attendance for the year, thirty-four meetings of your Committee have been called, at one only of which there was no quorum present; His Worship the Mayor was present at 27 meetings; Ald. Birrell, 28; Ald. Hyman, 30; Ald. Jones, 27; Ald. Ferguson, 30; Ald. Minhinnick, 21; Ald. Macbeth, 27; Ald. Sharman, 14; (10) your Committee, shortly after taking office, became aware of certain irregularities in the accounts in the Treasurer's office, and submit that the report of the re-audit as ordered by this Council and submitted by Mr. Jewell justifies the expenditure thereon, and presents a useful lesson for the guidance of your Committee's successors; (11) there has been opened under the supervision of your Committee during the year an entirely new set of books for the Treasurer's office, which cannot but prove beneficial to the incoming Council in rendering the details of the city accounts the more easy of comprehension; (12) the important matter of the assessment of the city received some consideration from your Committee; the late date at which they were able to take any steps prevented the accomplishment of any reform; your Committee would, however, recommend the Council of 1883 to endeavor by some means to remedy the main ground of complaint, namely, the irregularity of the present assessment roll; (13) during the year there have been numerous remittances and reductions in assessment made, by order of the Council, and while your Committee have no wish to shirk their part of this responsibility, they would strongly urge the necessity of a reform in this direction, pointing out that in the meaning of the Act no Council or Committee can remit or reduce assessment, after the final sitting of the Revision Court, except in cases of relief; (14) your Committee have examined the receipts and expenditures of the year to Dec. 30th, and (after taking into account the probable outstandings) compared the totals with the estimates of the year, and are gratified in being able to report that the expenditure of the year will probably be within the estimates; (15) your Committee desire to acknowledge the efficient services of your Treasurer in his department, and would recommend their successors to take into consideration the insufficiency of his present remuneration.

Ald. Pritchard moved in amendment, seconded by Ald. Taylor that a rebate of $20 be allowed Messrs. Strathdee. Lost.

The report was then adopted as read.

BOARD OF HEALTH.

Ald. Browne (Chairman) reported from the Board of Health as follows :—

To His Worship the Mayor and members of the Council:—

Gentlemen—As required by by-law I beg leave to present the following report from your Board of Health, viz :—

That your Board has much pleasure to report that through a kind Providence we have been blessed with freedom from any epidemic, while those around us have suffered more or less from that dire disease small-pox.

During the year (municipal) now closing we have to report that we have had four cases, and your Board, as soon as they were made known, took the necessary steps to prevent its spread, and, I am happy to say, they were successful.

Your Board also, on January 27th, made the necessary arrangements for the vaccination of all who would avail themselves of the opportunity. The medical men of the city gave material aid to your Board by reporting cases coming under their notice, as well as attending to the different wards for vaccination purposes.

On the 17th February your Board appointed sub-inspectors to abate nuisances existing, or that might exist within the city, and have much pleasure in according to them the thanks of the Board for the zeal manifested in the performance of the work assigned to them.

The nuisance that has existed in the basement of City Hall for years has been removed.

The flushing of the sewers was to have been attended to in the beginning of the year, but owing to defects in the same the matter was placed in the hands of the City Engineer and No. 2 Committee, where it has remained. Your Board would also recommend to our successors the advisability of taking steps necessary to have Carling Creek made a trunk sewer, as your Board considers that in doing so would confer a lasting benefit to the ratepayers in general and place our city on a good sanitary basis.

In conclusion, your Board earnestly hope that, in the year now entered upon, our successors in office will keep as vigilant an eye to the sanitary improvements of the city as those now retiring, and I have no doubt but all will be well.

The report was adopted.

APPOINTING ASSESSORS.

Ald. Hunt moved that the by-laws appointing assessors be rescinded, seconded by Ald. Becher.

Ald. O'Meara moved in amendment, seconded by Ald. Boyd, that only one by-law be repealed, and that Mr. Grant be not placed before the Council as a new candidate.

Ald. Pritchard moved in amendment seconded by Ald. Skinner, that the by-laws be not repealed, and that the old assessors be instructed to proceed with the assessment of the city.

The amendment to the amendment was lost. The yeas and nays were called as follows:—

Yeas — Pritchard, Taylor, Skinner, Higgins, Sharman.—5.

Nays—Hunt, Birrell, Hyman, Murray, Jones, O'Meara, Beattie, Ferguson, Crawford, Macbeth, Becher, Peel.—12.

Ald. Browne not voting.

The amendment was also lost and the motion prevailed.

The ballot was then taken as follows, the lowest dropping out each time.

	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.	5th.
A. Wallace	4	3	0	0	0
S. Grant	9	5	6	6	13
W. D. Buckle	2	3	6	8	8
E. Towe	3	5	5	6	0
W. Y. Brunton	2	5	4	0	0
E. Glackmeyer	1	0	0	0	0

A tie occured on the second ballot between Messrs. Buckle and Wallace, which was decided by a vote of 16 to 5 in favcr of Mr. Buckle.

On the fourth ballot a tie occurred between Messrs. Grant and Towe, which was decided by the following vote:—Grant, 15; Towe, 6.

The vote was then taken between Messrs. Grant and Buckle, and Mr. Grant was declared elected on the fifth ballot.

The ballot was then passed for the second Assessor, the following being the candidates and the votes polled:—

	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.
Wallace	3	3	0	0
Buckle	5	4	7	11
Towe	6	6	6	0
Brunton	6	8	8	9
Glackmeyer	1	0	0	0

Mr. W. D. Buckle was declared elected second Assessor, and the by-law appointing Messrs. Stephen Grant and W. D. Buckle Assessors was read a first time.

On the second reading of the by-law Ald. Hunt moved, seconded by Ald. Birrell, that the name of W. Y. Brunton be substituted for that of W. D. Buckle.

Ald. Taylor moved, seconded by Ald. Skinner, that the ratepayers having voted a bonus of $30,000 to the London Junction Railway for the purpose of purchasing a right of way, be it resolved that the by-law granting the London Junction Railway running powers over certain streets, set forth in said by-law, be rescinded.

His Worship ruled the motion out of order.

Ald. Taylor desired the resolution and His Worship's ruling entered in the minutes.

THE BALLOT.

Ald. Macbeth returned, and the vote on the Assessorship was again taken, and resulted as follows:—

Buckle	12
Brunton	9

The by-law was then read the third time and passed, and the Council adjourned.